

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Naturalized Koreans in Northeast Administrative Area

1. In December 1951 at least 200,000 Koreans who were citizens of Communist China were living in the Northeast Administrative Area. During the days of the Japanese occupation many Koreans were living in the Yenpian area, on the border between Manchuria and North Korea along the Tumen and Yalu Rivers, around Mutanchiang (N 44 - , E 129 -), Hailin (N 44-34, E 129-23), and Tungning (N 44-01, E 131-14). Some Koreans were scattered in remote areas. The Koreans who had become regular citizens of Communist China had lived there since the time of the Manchukuo era under the Japanese. They were treated by the Chinese Communists as a minority race or religious group like the Mongolians and the Mohammedans.
2. About 80 percent of the 200,000 naturalized Koreans in the Northeast Administrative Area were farmers. Most of the Manchurian rice was produced by the Koreans. When the land reform program was introduced, land was distributed to the Koreans according to their plowing capacity. Thirty percent of their produce had to be given to the government as a tax-in-kind that the Chinese called government grain (kung liang, 0361/4752). The farmers who worked diligently and steadily could secure the basic necessities of life.
3. Other Koreans were small merchants, and a very few were engaged in other businesses. The Koreans in commerce were gradually declining in number because of the heavy taxes levied on them as an inevitable result of the new Communist economy in China. Those who served in government organs and worked in the factories were able to support their families.

Temporary Korean Residents

4. Among the minority races in this area, the Koreans represented the majority; however, many of them were staying in Manchuria only temporarily as they

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were refugees of the Korean War. These lived mainly in an area centered around Mutanchiang. Most of them were members of families of North Korean Government employees. They were gradually going back to North Korea.

5. Koreans living as foreigners in the Northeast Administrative Area were treated in the same manner as the naturalized Koreans except that they did not have the right to vote, to be elected to office, or to travel freely. They could work in the government organs and join all of the social organizations.
6. Koreans living as foreigners received temporary certificates, valid for three months, from the police bureau. These were issued on the basis of the following information:
 - a. Upon entering the Northeast Administrative Area, the Koreans went to the resident division of the local police bureau where they filled in a two-page residence application. The application indicated the date of entry, the area traversed enroute, the desired area for residence, and the reason for entry.
 - b. The travel certificates issued by the North Korean Government and two pictures were attached to the application.
 - c. If the individual had no travel certificate, he had to present his autobiography.
 - d. The form of the temporary residence certificate was printed on white paper, 26 cm. x 20 cm., arranged as follows:

TEMPORARY RESIDENCE CERTIFICATE

Name	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">picture</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">seal</div>
Date of birth (age)	
Nationality	
Address	
Occupation	
Date of entry into China	
Date issued	
Period of Validity	
000 Police Bureau Chief 000 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">seal</div>	

7. At the end of three months the temporary residence certificate had to be exchanged for another certificate that was valid for one year. The second certificate required two pictures and an autobiography. It was 10 cm. x 13.5 cm. with two sheets of paper folded in half, making four pages. The paper was rather thick with the first and fourth pages in green; the second and third pages were yellow. On the front page was written TEMPORARY RESIDENCE CERTIFICATE FOR FOREIGNERS. The second page contained the subject's name, date of birth (age), nationality, occupation, address, date of entry into China, period of validity, and date of issue.

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At the end of the certificate the issuing officer signed and stamped the certificate with his seal. The subject's picture was pasted on the right top corner of this page. Remarks printed in Korean on the third page and in Chinese on the fourth page stated that the residence certificate was only for Koreans, was not to be loaned to others, and could not be used as a travel permit. It further stated that it was necessary to present the residence certificate when subject applied for naturalization; a check of the document by the issuing officer was required twice a year; it had to be presented to the police bureau if subject returned to his own country; and a new certificate was required at the termination date. The temporary certificate varied for each minority race.

8. If a Korean who was a temporary resident wanted to travel, he applied for a permit at the police bureau by writing down the purpose of his travel, his destination, and the duration of his trip. The Korean handed in his temporary residence certificate and received a travel permit. At the destination, the applicant went to the local police bureau, applied for a temporary residence certificate, and handed in his travel permit. After returning to his starting point, he relinquished his travel permit to the issuing office and in turn received his former temporary residence certificate. After three years of residence, Koreans were eligible to apply for naturalization.

Government

9. In the Northeast Administrative Area the Yenpien Special Administrative District, under the Kirin government, was for Koreans, as for other minorities. Several hsien were in the Special Administrative District which was a semi-self-governing area where Koreans were in the majority and Chinese in the minority. Most of the staff, including CHU Tok-hae (2612/1795/3189), the special commissioner, were Koreans. The representative of the Koreans to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference was CH'OE Ch'ae (1508/5475), a Korean and member of the Chinese Communist Party. The Koreans' representative to the Sungchiang Provincial Political Conference also was a Korean who lived in Hailin.
10. In hsien where the majority of the population was Korean, the magistrate and the assistant magistrate were Koreans. In the villages where the majority of the population was Korean, even the lowest units of the government, as the ch'u, which is an administrative area under a hsien, and the tsun, an administrative unit of the ch'u, were organized with only Koreans. Where the population was half Korean and half Chinese, the number of Chinese and Korean staff members was divided according to the ratio of the population. The Koreans even held police and supervisory powers over the Chinese in areas where more Koreans than Chinese were living, for example, in Yenpien Special Administrative District. Where only a few Koreans lived, a racial bureau or division of the government was established in the province, city, or hsien concerned; then both Koreans and Chinese were staff members so that the Koreans and other minority races could be equitably supervised.

Participation in Organizations

11. The Koreans were equally eligible with the Chinese to affiliate with the Chinese Communist Party and other Communist organizations including the China New Democratic Youth League, the Women's Association, the Young Pioneers, the unions, and the farmers' associations. In government offices the Koreans joined the Chinese in these associations, since all the Koreans who were serving with government organs were fluent in Chinese. The Korean farmers were so numerous that they organized a separate branch of each organization. The

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Korean branches were also controlled by the central organs without racial discrimination. Korean associations in the cities supervised the Koreans. In Harbin, however, there were comparatively few Koreans, an insufficient number for self-administration, and a Korean association under the racial division of the city government served as an administrative organ for these Koreans.¹ A Korean hall of culture was established there to disseminate Korean culture. There were Korean primary schools, middle schools, and a university under the control of the government.

Publications

12. In Yenchi (N 42-55, E 129-31), seat of the Yenpien Special Administrative District, a Northeast Korean People's News Company published the Northeast Korean People's News, the paper for that District. It also published another paper of smaller size in Korean characters for the less educated class, also a monthly Educational News, Cultural Learning, and Yenpien Monthly Arts. Many other booklets and leaflets were published in Korean to explain the party line and to give cultural guidance. These and numerous books published in Korean by the North Korean government and the Soviet government were available in the Minchu bookstore which was operated by the Chinese Communists in such cities as Yenchi, Lungching, (N 42-47, E 129-26) Mutanchiang, Chilin (N 43-51, E 126-32) and Shenyang (N 41-18, E 113-26).

Recruitment

13. On 24 July 1950 the anti-America and aid-Korea policy was announced by the Chinese Communists. Prior to October 1950, the Chinese Communist Forces crossed the Yalu River as a volunteer group. All the Korean soldiers in these forces were sent to North Korea to join the North Korean Army (NKA).
14. In the beginning of December 1950, a gathering of young people was held at the Korean Culture Hall in Harbin. After a short recreation program, the chairman of the Koreans' Association made a cultural and ideological speech and then compelled each young person to join the army going to Korea. Each one had to consent since the doors of the hall were locked. Some escaped while having their physical examinations; others ran away during the trip from Harbin to Korea, but were discovered by the railway police.
15. In 1951 military officers of the NKA were dispatched by their supreme command to the Northeast Administrative Area to recruit, with the cooperation of the Chinese, as many regiments as possible for service in Korea. Not only soldiers were mobilized, but also interpreters and personnel for the stretcher and medical units. Personnel for medical units were female. During this recruitment period the Koreans were especially indoctrinated with anti-America and aid-Korea propaganda by the Chinese Communists. At the indoctrination meetings Koreans learned to hail the international spirit and were taught their obligation to participate in the Korean war which was for the preservation of their own race.
16. In April 1951 the Koreans' Association issued a notice to the Korean Middle School that interpreters were needed by the military. The principal of the school made a speech before the student body emphasizing that it was time to test their patriotism and international spirit. Most of the students volunteered. The number to be recruited was limited; two or three from each

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class, up to a total of ten students, were chosen. All students chosen were over 18 years of age, fluent in Chinese, and were given immediate physical examinations. If they passed the physical examination, they were sent directly to the interpreters' unit without being permitted to inform their families. Similar recruitments were made from time to time.

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